Amendments to the Claims

1-81. (Canceled)

82.   (Previously presented) A method of creating a program table to define a temporal arrangement of a plurality of contents, said method comprising the steps of:

utilizing a constraint condition solution unit to create said program table through the use of a constraint solution technique on the basis of a constraint condition related to a selection of said plurality of contents and/or a constraint condition related to a temporal arrangement of said plurality of contents; and

utilizing said constraint condition solution unit to create said program table again through the use of a constraint solution technique with time length of each of said plurality of contents unchanged, by introducing a new constraint condition according to priorities of said constraint conditions.

83.   (Previously presented) The method according to claim 82, further comprising a step of utilizing a tree structure unit to express said program table by a tree structure having one or a plurality of hierarchies in which elements indicative of said contents constituting said program table are disposed in a lowest-rank layer and elements summarizing features of lower-rank elements are disposed in a rank higher with respect to the elements indicative of said contents;

wherein time length of each of said elements summarizing features of said lower-rank elements has some range.

84.   (Cancel)

85.   (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to claim 84,~~ A method of creating a program table to define a temporal arrangement of a plurality of contents, said method comprising the steps of:

utilizing a constraint condition solution unit to create said program table through the use of a constraint solution technique on the basis of a constraint condition related to a selection of said plurality of contents and/or a constraint condition related to a temporal arrangement of said plurality of contents;

wherein said constraint condition solution unit creates said program table on the basis of a correlation between said contents, by referring scores set with respect to said plurality of contents according to user's preference information, and

wherein an arrangement of said contents is determined on the basis of a pattern of scores of said plurality of contents with respect to a time axis.

86.   (Cancel)

87.   (Currently Amended) A program table creation device for creating a program table defining a temporal arrangement of a plurality of contents, the device comprising;

a constraint condition solution unit that creates said program table through the use of a constraint solution technique on the basis of a constraint condition related to a selection of said plurality of contents and/or a constraint condition related to a temporal arrangement of said plurality of contents; and

a memory that stores said program table created by said constraint condition solution unit;

wherein said constraint condition solution unit creates said program table again through the use of a constraint solution technique with time length of each of said plurality of contents unchanged, by introducing a new constraint condition according to priorities of said constraint conditions.

88.   (Previously presented) The program table creation device according to claim 87, further comprising a tree structure unit that expresses said program table by a tree structure having one or a plurality of hierarchies in which elements indicative of said contents constituting said program table are disposed in a lowest-rank layer and elements

summarizing features of lower-rank elements are disposed in a rank higher with respect to the elements indicative of said contents;

wherein time length of each of said elements summarizing features of said lower-rank elements has some range.

89.   (Cancel)

90.   (Currently Amended) ~~The program table creation device according to claim 89,~~ A program table creation device for creating a program table defining a temporal arrangement of a plurality of contents, the device comprising;

a constraint condition solution unit that creates said program table through the use of a constraint solution technique on the basis of a constraint condition related to a selection of said plurality of contents and/or a constraint condition related to a temporal arrangement of said plurality of contents; and

a memory that stores said program table created by said constraint condition solution unit;

wherein said constraint condition solution unit creates said program table on the basis of a correlation between said contents, by referring scores set with respect to said plurality of contents according to user's preference information, and

wherein an arrangement of said contents is determined on the basis of a pattern of scores of said plurality of contents with respect to a time axis.

91.   (cancel)

92.   (Currently Amended) A program table creation system for creating a program table defining a temporal arrangement of a plurality of contents, the system comprising:

a program table creation server existing in a predetermined network, so arranged as to create said program table through the use of a constraint solution technique on the basis of a constraint condition related to a selection of said plurality of contents and/or a constraint condition related to a temporal arrangement of said plurality of contents, and

create said program table again through the use of a constraint solution technique with time length of each of said plurality of contents unchanged, by introducing a new constraint condition according to priorities of said constraint conditions, and

a communication unit being configured to connect ~~connectable~~ with said predetermined network and to transmit ~~capable of transmitting~~ said constraint condition through said predetermined network to said program table creation server and receive ~~receiving~~ said program table created by said program table creation server.

93.   (Previously presented) The program table creation system according to claim 92, further comprising a tree structure unit that expresses said program table by a tree structure having one or a plurality of hierarchies in which elements indicative of said contents constituting said program table are disposed in a lowest-rank layer and elements summarizing features of lower-rank elements are disposed in a rank higher with respect to the elements indicative of said contents;

wherein time length of each of said elements summarizing features of said lower-rank elements has some range.

94.   (Cancel)

95.   (Currently Amended) ~~The program table creation system according to claim 94,~~ A program table creation system for creating a program table defining a temporal arrangement of a plurality of contents, the system comprising:

a program table creation server existing in a predetermined network, so arranged as to create said program table through the use of a constraint solution technique on the basis of a constraint condition related to a selection of said plurality of contents and/or a constraint condition related to a temporal arrangement of said plurality of contents, and create said program table on the basis of a correlation between said contents, by referring scores set with respect to said plurality of contents according to user's preference information, and

a communication unit being configured to connect with said predetermined network and to transmit said constraint condition through said predetermined network to said program table creation server and receive said program table created by said program table creation server,

wherein an arrangement of said contents is determined on the basis of a pattern of scores of said plurality of contents with respect to a time axis.

96.   (Cancel)

97.   (New) The method according to claim 85, wherein said pattern of scores of said plurality of contents with respect to a time axis is a pattern showing that said scores of contents gradually increase from a start time to an end time of said program table.

98.   (New) The method according to claim 85, wherein said pattern of scores of said plurality of contents with respect to a time axis is a pattern showing that said scores of contents gradually decrease from a start time to an end time of said program table.

99.   (New) The method according to claim 85, wherein said pattern of scores of said plurality of contents with respect to a time axis is a pattern showing that said scores of contents gradually increase from a start time to an intermediate time of said program table and said scores of contents gradually decrease from said intermediate time to an end time of said program table.

100.   (New) The method according to claim 85, wherein said pattern of scores of said plurality of contents with respect to a time axis is a pattern showing that said scores of contents gradually decrease from a start time to an intermediate time of said program table and said scores of contents gradually increase from said intermediate time to an end time of said program table.

101. (New) The program table creation device according to claim 90, wherein said pattern of scores of said plurality of contents with respect to a time axis is a pattern showing that said scores of contents gradually increase from a start time to an end time of said program table.

102. (New) The program table creation device according to claim 90, wherein said pattern of scores of said plurality of contents with respect to a time axis is a pattern showing that said scores of contents gradually decrease from a start time to an end time of said program table.

103. (New) The program table creation device according to claim 90, wherein said pattern of scores of said plurality of contents with respect to a time axis is a pattern showing that said scores of contents gradually increase from a start time to an intermediate time of said program table and said scores of contents gradually decrease from said intermediate time to an end time of said program table.

104. (New) The program table creation device according to claim 90, wherein said pattern of scores of said plurality of contents with respect to a time axis is a pattern showing that said scores of contents gradually decrease from a start time to an intermediate time of said program table and said scores of contents gradually increase from said intermediate time to an end time of said program table.

105. (New) The program table creation system according to claim 95, wherein said pattern of scores of said plurality of contents with respect to a time axis is a pattern showing that said scores of contents gradually increase from a start time to an end time of said program table.

106. (New) The program table creation system according to claim 95, wherein said pattern of scores of said plurality of contents with respect to a time axis is a pattern

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showing that said scores of contents gradually decrease from a start time to an end time of said program table.

107. (New) The program table creation system according to claim 95, wherein said pattern of scores of said plurality of contents with respect to a time axis is a pattern showing that said scores of contents gradually increase from a start time to an intermediate time of said program table and said scores of contents gradually decrease from said intermediate time to an end time of said program table.

108. (New) The program table creation system according to claim 95, wherein said pattern of scores of said plurality of contents with respect to a time axis is a pattern showing that said scores of contents gradually decrease from a start time to an intermediate time of said program table and said scores of contents gradually increase from said intermediate time to an end time of said program table.

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